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PTQ3204

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ACTION DS-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO LOG-00 MFA-00 NP-00 CA-01 CIAE-00 INL-00 ANHR-00
WHA-00 PERC-00 TEDE-00 LAB-01 MMP-00 DCP-01 OCS-03
PC-01 IRM-00 ASDS-01 SHEM-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02 SAS-00
/010W

-----819A08 100025Z /38

R 100004Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5407

UNCLAS E F T O CARACAS 000949

SENSITIVE

NOFORN
DEPT FOR DS/OP/WHA
DEPT ALSO FOR WHA/AND, DS/DSS/OSAC
DEPT ALSO FOR CA/ACS/WHA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, CASC, VE
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING OF 04/09/02

REF: CARACAS 929

1. ENTIRE TEXT IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE
PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

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2. (SBU) AN EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE (EAC) MEETING WAS
HELD AT 0900 HOURS ON 04/09/02 TO DISCUSS THE NATIONAL
STRIKE, WHICH WAS INITIATED THIS MORNING. AMBASSADOR,
CHARLES SHAPIRO, CHAIRED THE EAC. MEMBERS OF THE EAC OFFERED
VARIOUS INSIGHTS AS TO WHAT MIGHT OCCUR BASED ON NEWS
STORIES, INTERLOCUTORS AND CONTACTS. THE EAC DETERMINED
THAT ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THE
SAFETY OF THE EMBASSY COMMUNITY. A WARDEN MESSAGE HAD
PREVIOUSLY BEEN ISSUED TO THE US CITIZEN COMMUNITY AND OSAC
MEMBERSHIP, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 16 NOV 2004 200400113

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3. (SBU) THE EAC CONCLUDED THAT THE EMBASSY COMMUNITY FACED LITTLE TO NO THREAT BY THE STRIKE AND POTENTIAL DEMONSTRATIONS. ACCOUNTABILITY OF PERSONNEL WAS RE-EMPHASIZED. SCHOOLS UTILIZED BY THE EMBASSY REMAINED CLOSED. THE EMBASSY CONTINUED OPERATIONS AT NEAR NORMAL STAFFING AND TEMPO, EVEN KEEPING MISSION PERFORMANCE PLAN REVIEW IN EFFECT. WHILE THE VISA APPLICANT LINE REPORTED ONLY 50 CANCELLATIONS, AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES REPORTED SEVERAL.

4. (SBU) THE ONLY PLANNED DEMONSTRATION WAS SCHEDULED FOR 1600 HOURS AT THE PDVSA HEADQUARTERS IN CHUAO, AN AREA SOME FOUR MILES, OR 15 MINUTES DRIVING TIME FROM THE EMBASSY. AS OF THIS WRITING, REPORTS INDICATE THAT OPPOSING GROUPS, MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION AND PRO-CHAVEZ SUPPORTERS, HAD CLASHED WITH FISTFIGHTS, ROCK THROWING AND A GENERAL ESCALATION OF VERBAL INSULTS. POLICIA METROPOLITANA DEPLOYED RIOT POLICE TO THE SCENE AND IT IS KNOWN THAT AT LEAST ONE WATER CANNON WAS USED TO QUELL THE VIOLENCE. MORE DETAILS OF THE NATIONAL STRIKE WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL.

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5. (U) POINT OF CONTACT FOR INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT IS JOHN M. DAVIS, REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER - IVG:
643-2403

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